

Past Perfect Tense

English Grammar Connection: The **past participle** describes actions that had occurred before other actions in the past. In English, it is formed with the verb *had* and the past particles of the main verb. In Spanish, you use **haber**.

We **had** already **eaten** when she called. Ya **habíamos comido** cuando ella llamó.

Use the **past participle** tense to show that an event had already occurred (or not occurred) at a specific moment in the past.

Here's how:

Conjugate the verb **haber** in the imperfect tense and add the past participle of the main verb. The past participle always ends in **-o**.

Había Habías Había	Haber	Habíamos Habías Habían	+	Past participle
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Ya **había visitado** Toledo antes.

I had visited Toledo before.

When used with another verb, the action expressed with the **past perfect** occurred before the other **past action**.

Cuando Felipe **volvió**, sus tíos ya **se habían ido**.
When Felipe returned, his aunt and uncle had already gone.

The words **ya** and **todavía** are often used with the **past perfect** tense.

Ya is used in affirmative statements and means *already*.

Irma **ya había salido** cuando Albegerto llegó.
Irma had already left when Alberto arrived.

Todavía is used in negative statements and means *not... yet* or *still... not*.

Antonio **todavía no había comprado** el pan cuando la panadería cerró.
Antonio still hadn't bought the bread / hadn't bought the bread yet when the bakery closed.